

prevention education poses a threat to the Latino community and efforts to stop the spread of HIV.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day allows us to actively open our eyes and bring light to the epidemic. It is a day of hope for the future of a world without HIV and AIDS. On National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, I ask that we remember those who have lost their lives because of AIDS, show compassion and support for those living with the disease, and pray for all families and communities whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 487, 488, and 489. The votes I missed include rollcall vote No. 487 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to A Tribute to Survivors at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; rollcall vote No. 488 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 1814, to transfer Federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior; and rollcall vote No. 489, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 567, Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual Give Kids a Smile program.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 487, 488, and 489.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PATRICK SHINOGLA FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Patrick Shinogle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Patrick Shinogle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR MICHAEL CARVER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Michael Carver, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Michael Carver for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A BILL FOR LONG-TERM ENERGY SECURITY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill that would provide long-term energy security and greater consumer protection to the American people.

The legislation would permit the Secretary of Energy to use any supplies in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in excess of 700 million barrels to address sustained price increases in gasoline or oil that could have an adverse impact on the Nation's economy. Currently, the President may authorize a release of supplies from the SPR to provide economic relief from petroleum price increases, though such an act would need to be in response to a sustained reduction in supply. This legislation would expand that authority for cases when price increases were not attributable to a shortage, such as international volatility, a major shift in demand, or a decline in refining capacity.

The consistently high prices our Nation is paying for petroleum—today, oil reached \$53 per barrel—threaten to damage our economy and stifle growth. Furthermore, they remind us of how reliant our Nation is on foreign sources of oil. With volatility in Iraq and elsewhere, major hurricane damage to energy facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, rising demand in nations such as India and China, and OPEC's apparent inability or unwillingness to reduce world oil prices, the United States has reached a point where we have little influence over a major factor affecting our economic well-being. It is therefore imperative that we increase the size of the SPR both to protect our Nation in a time of strife as well as to insulate our economy from problems in the petroleum market.

I have no illusions that this legislation will solve our Nation's energy crisis. In fact, the new release authority would not even enter into effect until the SPR surpassed 700 million barrels, which will not occur until next year at

the earliest. We must adopt this new long-term goal as part of a larger effort to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, pursuing a comprehensive energy policy that encourages alternative fuel sources and energy efficiency. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this measure enacted into law.

CONCERN ON PROPOSED NEW TAXES ON CIGAR MANUFACTURERS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my grave concern about the proposed new taxes on cigar manufacturers included in the FSC/ETI conference report. This new tax, which was not included in either the House or Senate version of the FSC/ETI legislation, amounts to \$282 million. Companies in the State of Florida will pay more than 75 percent of this tax increase.

I do not know how this new tax provision appeared in the conference report, but it is bad policy. This is supposed to be a jobs bill for all Americans, but I am afraid that this new tax will cost jobs in my state. For the historic Florida cigar industry, this provision is nothing more than a tax increase and job killer.

Since cigar manufacturers generally do not use the types of tobacco being "bought out," it is improper to impose a new tax on them under this bill. We should not increase taxes on industries unless the new tax has something to do with the purpose of the new program. The cigar industry should not subsidize the cigarette and smokeless tobacco industry. I hope that this issue will be revisited in the near future and a correction can be made to reverse this ill-conceived tax increase.

IRAQ IS EVER MORE DANGEROUS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the land of the "not quite right" has turned into the land of the ever more dangerous and difficult. I returned to Iraq last week on a Congressional fact-finding mission after less than a year since my previous visit. The trip gave me an opportunity to hear from our troops in the field, meet with military commanders and visit with some Iraqi citizens.

Unquestionably, the mission in Iraq has become more dangerous and difficult. The insurgents have expanded their support. They are more sophisticated, coordinated and lethal in their tactics. They enjoy sanctuaries in some major cities and they are exploiting the lack of progress in rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure to their advantage.

Our troops are doing a terrific job under difficult and dangerous circumstances. We can all be proud of our men and women in the military who are following their orders, carrying out their missions and sacrificing so much to give the Iraqi people a chance for a more peaceful and prosperous future. But they